

CHAPTER 28B.04 RCW DISPLACED HOMEMAKER ACT

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RCW 28B.04.010 Short title.

This chapter may be known and cited as the "displaced homemaker act." [1979 c 73 § 1.]

RCW 28B.04.020 Legislative findings--Purpose.

The legislature finds that homemakers are an unrecognized part of the work force who make an invaluable contribution to the strength, durability, and purpose of our state.

The legislature further finds that there is an increasing number of persons in this state who, having fulfilled a role as homemaker, find themselves "displaced" in their middle years through divorce, death of spouse, disability of spouse, or other loss of family income of a spouse. As a consequence, displaced homemakers are very often left with little or no income; they are ineligible for categorical welfare assistance; they are subject to the highest rate of unemployment of any sector of the work force; they face continuing discrimination in employment because of their age and lack of recent paid work experience; they are ineligible for unemployment insurance because they have been engaged in unpaid labor in the home; they are ineligible for social security benefits because they are too young, and many never qualify because they have been divorced from the family wage earner; they may have lost beneficiaries' rights under employer's pension and health plans through divorce or death of spouse; and they are often unacceptable to private health insurance plans because of their age.

It is the purpose of this chapter to establish guidelines under which the higher education coordinating board shall contract to establish multipurpose service centers and programs to provide necessary training opportunities, counseling, and services for displaced homemakers so that they may enjoy the independence and economic security vital to a productive life. [1985 c 370 § 36; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 1; 1979 c 73 § 2.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.030 Definitions.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

(2) "Center" means a multipurpose service center for displaced homemakers as described in RCW 28B.04.040.

(3) "Program" means those programs described in RCW 28B.04.050 which provide direct, outreach, and information and training services which serve the needs of displaced homemakers.

(4) "Displaced homemaker" means an individual who:

(a) Has worked in the home for ten or more years providing unsalaried household services for family members on a full-time basis; and

(b) Is not gainfully employed;

(c) Needs assistance in securing employment; and

(d) Has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income, or has been dependent on federal assistance but is no longer eligible for that assistance, or is supported as the parent of minor children by public assistance or spousal support but whose children are within two years of reaching their majority. [1985 c 370 § 37; 1979 c 73 § 3.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.040 Multipurpose service centers--Contracts for--Rules embodying standards for--Funds for.

(1) The board, in consultation with state and local governmental agencies, community groups, and local and national organizations concerned with displaced homemakers, shall receive applications and may contract with public or private nonprofit organizations to establish multipurpose service centers for displaced homemakers. In determining sites and administering agencies or organizations for the centers, the board shall consider the experience and capabilities of the public or private nonprofit organizations making application to provide services to a center.

(2) The board shall issue rules prescribing the standards to be met by each center in accordance with the policies set forth in this chapter. Continuing funds for the maintenance of each center shall be contingent upon the determination by the board that the center is in compliance with the contractual conditions and with the rules prescribed by the board. [1985 c 370 § 38; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 2; 1979 c 73 § 4.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.050 Multipurpose service centers--Referral to services by--Displaced homemakers as staff.

(1) Each center contracted for under this chapter shall include or provide information and referral to the following services:

(a) Job counseling services which shall:

- (i) Be specifically designed for displaced homemakers;
- (ii) Counsel displaced homemakers with respect to appropriate job opportunities; and
- (iii) Take into account and build upon the skills and experience of a homemaker and emphasize job readiness as well as skill development;
- (b) Job training and job placement services which shall:
 - (i) Emphasize short-term training programs and programs which expand upon homemaking skills and volunteer experience and which lead to gainful employment;
 - (ii) Develop, through cooperation with state and local government agencies and private employers, model training and placement programs for jobs in the public and private sectors;
 - (iii) Assist displaced homemakers in gaining admission to existing public and private job training programs and opportunities, including vocational education and apprenticeship training programs; and
 - (iv) Assist in identifying community needs and creating new jobs in the public and private sectors;
- (c) Health counseling services, including referral to existing health programs, with respect to:
 - (i) General principles of preventative health care;
 - (ii) Health care consumer education, particularly in the selection of physicians and health care services, including, but not limited to, health maintenance organizations and health insurance;
 - (iii) Family health care and nutrition;
 - (iv) Alcohol and drug abuse; and
 - (v) Other related health care matters;
- (d) Financial management services which provide information and assistance with respect to insurance, taxes, estate and probate problems, mortgages, loans, and other related financial matters;
- (e) Educational services, including:
 - (i) Outreach and information about courses offering credit through secondary or postsecondary education programs, and other re-entry programs, including bilingual programming where appropriate; and
 - (ii) Information about such other programs as are determined to be of interest and benefit to displaced homemakers by the board;
- (f) Legal counseling and referral services; and
- (g) Outreach and information services with respect to federal and state employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment assistance programs which the board determines would be of interest and benefit to displaced homemakers.

(2) The staff positions of each multipurpose center contracted for in accordance with RCW 28B.04.040, including supervisory, technical, and administrative positions, shall, to the maximum extent possible, be filled by displaced homemakers. [1985 c 370 § 39; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 3; 1979 c 73 § 5.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.060 Contracting for specific programs.

The board may contract, where appropriate, with public or private nonprofit groups or organizations serving the needs of displaced homemakers for programs designed to:

(1) Provide direct services to displaced homemakers, including job counseling, job training and placement, health counseling, financial management, educational counseling, legal counseling, and referral services as described in RCW 28B.04.050;

(2) Provide state-wide outreach and information services for displaced homemakers; and

(3) Provide training opportunities for persons serving the needs of displaced homemakers, including those persons in areas not directly served by programs and centers established under this chapter. [1985 c 370 § 40; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 4; 1979 c 73 § 6.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.070 Evaluation--Recommendations.

Subject to RCW 40.07.040, the board shall submit to the legislature a biennial evaluation through 1990. The evaluations may include recommendation for future programs as determined by the board. [1987 c 505 § 10; 1985 c 370 § 41; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 5; 1979 c 73 § 7.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.080 Consultation and cooperation with other agencies--Agency report of available services and funds therefor--Board as clearinghouse for information and resources.

(1) The board shall consult and cooperate with the department of social and health services; the *state board for community college education; the superintendent of public instruction; the **commission for vocational education; the employment security department; the department of labor and industries; sponsoring agencies under the federal comprehensive employment and training act (87 Stat. 839; 29 U.S.C. Sec. 801 et seq.), and any other persons or agencies as the board deems appropriate to facilitate the coordination of centers established under this chapter with existing programs of a similar nature.

(2) Annually on July 1st, each agency listed in subsection (1) of this section shall submit a description of each service or program under its jurisdiction which would support the programs and centers established by this chapter and the funds available for such support.

(3) The board shall serve as a clearinghouse for displaced homemaker information and resources and shall compile and disseminate state-wide information to the centers, related agencies, and interested persons upon request. [1985 c 370 § 42; 1982 1st ex.s. c 15 § 6; 1979 c 73 § 8.]

NOTES:

Reviser's note: *(1) The state board for community college education was renamed the state board for community and technical colleges by 1991 c 238 § 30.

** (2) The commission on vocational education and its powers and duties, pursuant to the Sunset Act, chapter 43.131 RCW, were terminated June 30, 1986, and repealed June 30, 1987. See 1983 c 197 §§ 17 and 43.

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.085 Displaced homemaker program advisory committee.

(1) The executive coordinator of the higher education coordinating board shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the displaced homemaker program advisory committee.

(2) The advisory committee shall be advisory to the executive coordinator and staff of the board.

(3) Committee membership shall not exceed twenty-two persons and shall be geographically and generally representative of the state. At least one member of the advisory committee shall either be or recently have been a displaced homemaker.

(4) Functions of the advisory committee shall be:

(a) To provide advice on all aspects of administration of the displaced homemaker program, including content of program rules, guidelines, and application procedures;

(b) To assist in coordination of activities under the displaced homemaker program with related activities of other state and federal agencies, with particular emphasis on facilitation of coordinated funding. [1987 c 230 § 2.]

NOTES:

Effective date--1987 c 230: See note following RCW 36.18.010.

RCW 28B.04.090 Considerations when awarding contracts.

In the awarding of contracts under this chapter, consideration shall be given to need, geographic location, population ratios, and the extent of existing services. [1979 c 73 § 9.]

RCW 28B.04.100 Percentage of funding for centers or program to be provided by administering organization.

Thirty percent of the funding for the centers and programs under this chapter shall be provided by the organization administering the center or program. Contributions in-kind, whether materials and supplies, physical facilities, or personal services, may be considered as all or part of the funding provided by the organization. [1979 c 73 § 10.]

RCW 28B.04.110 Acceptance and use of contributions authorized--Qualifications.

The board may, in carrying out this chapter, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money, services, and property: PROVIDED, That funds generated within individual centers may be retained and utilized by those centers. All moneys received by the board or any employee thereof pursuant to this section shall be deposited in a depository approved by the state treasurer. Disbursements of such funds shall be on authorization of the board or a duly authorized representative thereof. In order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control such funds shall be subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation shall be required to permit expenditure of such funds. [1985 c 370 § 43; 1979 c 73 § 11.]

NOTES:

Severability--Effective dates--1985 c 370: See RCW 28B.80.911 and 28B.80.912.

RCW 28B.04.120 Discrimination prohibited.

No person in this state, on the ground of sex, age, race, color, religion, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap, shall be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this chapter. [1979 c 73 § 12.]